

KNOB CREEK HOME  
donation to N.H. Park Service

Drexell

KNOB CREEK HOME

7/1 2009. 082 05/10/07



Kentucky

Knob Creek

Knob Creek Home  
Donation to National Park  
Service

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

LaRue County Fiscal Court  
Lincoln Days, Inc.  
and  
Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc.  
cordially invite you  
to the  
Annual Lincoln Birthday Luncheon  
and  
Deed Transfer Ceremony of  
Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home  
to the  
National Park Service  
on  
February 12, 2002  
11:30 A.M. EST  
LaRue County High School Gymnasium  
911 South Lincoln Blvd.  
Hodgenville, KY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN BOYHOOD HOME  
DEED TRANSFER CEREMONY  
02/12/02

10:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

*Wreath Laying Ceremony  
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS*

11:30 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

*Lincoln Days Luncheon  
LaRue County High School*

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

*Deed Transfer Ceremony  
LaRue County High School*

2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

*Optional Tour to Abraham Lincoln  
Boyhood Home at Knob Creek  
(Transportation Provided)*

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

*Community Reception  
Lincoln Museum  
Hodgenville*

Lincoln Birthday Celebration  
February 12, 2002 11:30 a.m.

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE\_\_\_\_\_

Tickets are \$ 15.00 each. Payable to Lincoln Birthday Celebration.

Please reserve\_\_\_\_\_tickets. \$\_\_\_\_\_enclosed.

Reservations by January 28.

Your reservations will be held at LaRue County High School.

*LaRue County Judge/Executive***TOMMY TURNER**  
**LARUE COUNTY COURTHOUSE**209 West High Street  
Hodgenville, KY 42748Phone 270/358-4400  
Lejudge@ne.infi.net

For Immediate Release: February 1, 2002

**Lincoln's Knob Creek Farm Donated to National Park Service**

(Kentucky) – In a 1:00 p.m. public ceremony on February 12, National Park Service Director Fran Mainella will accept the 228-acre Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek in LaRue County, Kentucky, from the LaRue County Fiscal Court on behalf of Department of the Interior Secretary Gale Norton. Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek will be administrated by the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site south of Hodgenville, Kentucky.

"This is a significant addition to telling the life story of our 16<sup>th</sup> President," said Mainella. "The people of Kentucky, especially LaRue County, deserve the gratitude of every United States citizen for donating Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek to the federal government."

When asked about his Kentucky years, Abraham Lincoln was able to recall, "My earliest recollection is the Knob Creek place." At the Knob Creek Farm Lincoln planted crops with his father, watched chained slaves transported along the nearby Louisville to Nashville Road, walked to school with his sister Sarah, and saw the sheriff approach to evict the family because of a flaw in the land title. The family moved to Indiana in 1816 when Lincoln was seven years old.

"Many community, state, and national groups and individuals have worked for several years to make this a reality. This is the perfect success story of what public-private partnerships can accomplish," said Kenneth E. Apschnikat, Superintendent of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

LaRue County Judge Tommy Turner stated, "This is a unique piece of American history that is now preserved for future generations. Under National Park Service guidance, the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home will add another link to Abraham Lincoln's Kentucky heritage. National Park Service ownership of the Boyhood Home will allow the world to view and enjoy this Kentucky treasure as Lincoln himself did."

While the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home became federal property on November 6, 2001, this ceremony will honor and recognize the many individuals and organizations responsible for its acquisition and transfer to the federal government three years after Congress authorized its inclusion as part of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. Local citizens and LaRue County officials successfully organized a \$1 million fundraising campaign. Major contributions were received from the Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund, National Park Trust, LaRue County Fiscal Court, Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors, Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc., and Lincoln National Bank. Several community individuals also contributed time and money to the 14-month fundraising effort.

The ceremony for the deed transfer will take place at 1:00 p.m. February 12, 2002, the 193<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, at the LaRue County High School Gymnasium in Hodgenville, Kentucky. For more information about the ceremony and related events, please contact Rebecca Thomas, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS (270)358-3137.

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**LARUE COUNTY**

PRESIDENT  
GEORGE W. BUSH

February 8, 2002

The Honorable Tommy Turner  
LaRue County Court House  
209 West High Street  
Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748

Dear Judge Turner:

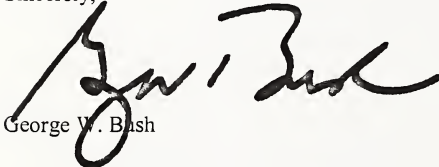
I am pleased to send my warm greeting to everyone gathered at Knob Creek Farm to celebrate the designation of President Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home as an historic site.

Your tribute to our first Republican President recalls the principles upon which our country was founded. President Lincoln governed according to those principles, still valid today-- firmness in pursuit of justice, charity toward all, and respect for the dignity of every human.

Laura joins me in thanking the citizens of LaRue County for all of your efforts. Your commitment will continue to be essential, as we strive to honor our Nation's heritage.

God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

Sincerely,



George W. Bush



WENDELL H. FORD

UNITED STATES SENATE

1974-1999

February 19, 2002

Dear Judge:

You certainly had a grand day. I thought it was outstanding.

Sorry I had to leave a bit early but had a Conference call I just had to make.

Thanks for having me

Sincerely,

Wendell



OFFICE OF  
THE DIRECTOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

FEB 21 2002

Judge Tommy Turner  
LaRue County Judge  
209 West High Street  
Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748

Dear Tommy:

It was a pleasure meeting with you during my recent visit to Hodgenville. Thank you for the gold pin etched with a likeness of Mr. Lincoln.

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your tireless efforts in spearheading the community support necessary to help obtain the Knob Creek property for the National Park Service. It will be truly inspiring for visitors to view the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and learn of this great American's humble beginnings.

Superintendent Ken Apschnikat informed me that, in all his years working for the NPS, you were easily the most helpful person in local government with whom he has ever worked. Please know that you are a valued partner in helping to accomplish our mission of preserving and protecting our nation's natural resources for future generations.

I look forward to seeing you again on a future visit to Kentucky!

Sincerely,

Fran P. Mainella  
Director



## NELSON COUNTY - KENTUCKY

DEAN WATTS, County Judge  
P.O. BOX 578 • 113 EAST STEPHEN FOSTER AVENUE  
BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY 40004-0578  
Phone: (502) 348-1800  
Fax: (502) 348-1873

February 14, 2002

Judge Tommy Turner  
Larue County  
P. O. Box 191  
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Dear Tommy,

Many thanks for the wonderful day as you celebrated a remarkable accomplishment in securing Lincoln's Boyhood Farm. I commend you not only in putting the project together, but also on a truly professional and well-organized celebration.

Please be sure to thank all on behalf of the citizens of Nelson County and may God bless you with continued success.

See you soon!

Sincerely,

Dean Watts

DW:ew



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And Convention Commis

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Website: [www.win.net/bardsto](http://www.win.net/bardsto)  
E-mail: [tourism@bardstown.cc](mailto:tourism@bardstown.cc)

Tommy Turner  
County Judge  
LaRue County  
Hodgenville, KY

February 13, 2002

Dear Judge Turner;

What a great day and wonderful ceremony. Everything was perfect. Thanks so much for allowing us to share in this momentous occasion. We also share your pride in this accomplishment and want to assure you--as partners in tourism--we are always ready to work together in any way.

Not many communities can boast of two national parks which laid the foundation of one of this countries greatest leaders. Congratulations.

Cordially,

Karl Lusk  
Chairman  
Bardstown Tourists & Convention Commission

Daniel D. Bennett  
Executive Director  
Bardstown Tourists & Convention Commission

*LaRue County Judge*  
**TOMMY TURNER**  
LARUE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

209 West High Street  
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Phone 270/358-4400  
Lejudge@nc.infi.net

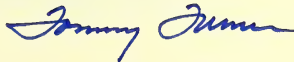
June 7, 2002

Dear Members of the ALBC,

Enclosed is a copy of the Deed Transfer Ceremony Program from the February 12 ceremony donating the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home, Knob Creek, to the National Park Service. I, along with various members of our group responsible for this donation, have compiled a "Concise History of the Acquisition of Knob Creek" which is also enclosed. I apologize for its rather "unpolished" format but our intent was to allow you to know the entire process by which this property was acquired and then donated to the Dept. of the Interior.

It is a tremendous honor serving with you on the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. While my knowledge of Lincoln pales in comparison to yours, I nonetheless have as much enthusiasm as any to see our 16<sup>th</sup> President fittingly honored on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

Sincerely,



Tommy Turner

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
LARUE COUNTY





*Deed Transfer Ceremony  
Conveying the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home  
at Knob Creek Farm  
To the National Park Service  
February 12, 2002*

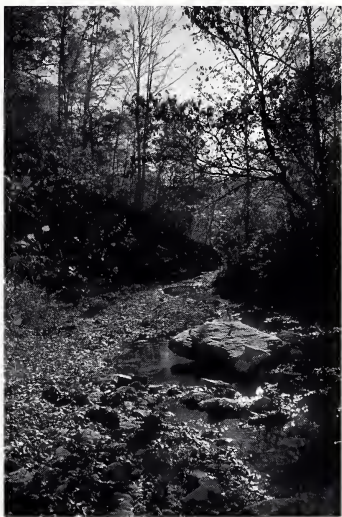
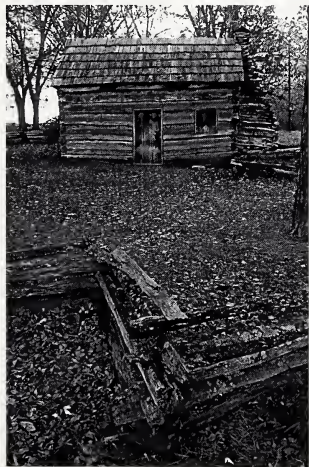






*My earliest recollection,  
is of the Knobcreek place*

Abraham Lincoln, 1860



## **History of Acquisition of Knob Creek Farm**

The inclusion of the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek Farm into the National Park System began as a joint effort of the National Park Service, the National Park Trust and LaRue County community leaders in the early 1990s. This farm is the only tract of land on which Abraham Lincoln lived for any significant period of time that had not yet become a state or national park, shrine or historic site.

U.S. Senator Wendell Ford of Kentucky proposed the required legislation in the United States Senate that allowed this to occur. Once passed by the Senate, Congressman Ron Lewis of Kentucky's 2nd District guided the legislation through the U. S. House of Representatives. On November 6, 1998, Public Law 105-355 was passed and signed into law by President Bill Clinton. It contained the stipulation that the property could be accepted by the Secretary of the Interior and added to the National Park Service by donation only.

Raising the necessary funds to purchase the Knob Creek Farm proved to be a daunting task. On March 29, 1999, at a meeting hosted in Hodgenville by former Kentucky Governor Louie B. Nunn, various community leaders came together to form Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc., a non-profit corporation whose purpose was to raise funds to acquire the farm and to assist in other Lincoln-related endeavors. Officers elected who formed the corporation's Executive Committee were historian and local attorney, Carl Howell Jr.-President; former State Representative, Kaye Bondurant-Vice President; and Opal Dail-Secretary/Treasurer.

The initial funding received for the Knob Creek Farm purchase was in the amount of \$10,000 from the National Park Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to assist, preserve, and enhance our national parks. This donation permitted the acquisition of an option to purchase the property for the consideration of \$1,000,000. Individuals and businesses donated additional funds but it soon became apparent that large grants of money would be required if the property could be purchased by the option deadline.

In its 2000 budget, the Kentucky General Assembly, through the efforts of LaRue County Judge Tommy Turner, State Senator Dan Kelly, Representative Dottie Sims, and Governor Paul Patton, included the sum of \$500,000 in funding to be granted to LaRue County to assist in the purchase.

Judge Turner, who serves as LaRue County's Chief Executive Officer and is a member of Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc., and the members of LaRue County Fiscal Court undertook the task of seeking other available grants. An application was made to the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund for the balance of the money necessary to acquire the farm. On the last day permitted by the option, this organization approved a grant to LaRue County in the amount of \$475,735 which allowed completion of the purchase.

It is hoped that the combined efforts of all those who have played a part in this historic venture will serve to provide a lasting tribute to the memory of the 16th President and Kentucky's native son.

LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE  
ACQUISITION OF KNOB CREEK FARM

PUBLIC LAW 105-355 NOV. 6, 1998

SEC. 510. ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC  
SITE, KENTUCKY.

(a) IN GENERAL.-- Upon acquisition of the land known as Knob Creek Farm pursuant to subsection (b), the boundary of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, established by the Act of July 17, 1916 (39 Stat. 385, chapter 247; 16 U.S.C. 211 et seq.), is revised to include such land. Lands acquired pursuant to this section shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the historic site.

(b) ACQUISITION OF KNOB CREEK FARM.--The Secretary of the Interior may acquire, by donation only, the approximately 228 acres of land known as Knob Creek Farm in Larue County, Kentucky, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Knob Creek Farm Unit, Abraham Lincoln National Historic Site", numbered 338/80,077, and dated October 1998. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) STUDY AND REPORT.--The Secretary of the Interior shall study the Knob Creek Farm in Larue County, Kentucky, and not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the Congress containing the results of the study. The purpose of the study shall be to:

- (1) Identify significant resources associated with the Knob Creek Farm and the early boyhood of Abraham Lincoln.
- (2) Evaluate the threats to the long-term protection of the Knob Creek Farm's cultural, recreational, and natural resources.
- (3) Examine the incorporation of the Knob Creek Farm into the operations of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and establish a strategic management plan for implementing such incorporation. In developing the plan, the Secretary shall--

(A) determine infrastructure requirements and property improvements needed at Knob Creek Farm to meet National Park Service standards;

(B) identify current and potential uses of Knob Creek Farm for recreational, interpretive, and educational opportunities; and

(C) project costs and potential revenues associated with acquisition, development, and operation of Knob Creek Farm.

(d) AUTHORIZATION.--There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (c).

in



# LINCOLN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

**FEBRUARY 12, 2002  
11:30 A.M. EST**

SEC. 510.

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**Tommy Turner ..... Opening Introduction  
LaRue County Judge**

**Charlotte Bingham ..... Welcome  
President, Lincoln Days Celebration Inc.**

**James Jeffries ..... Pledge of Allegiance**

**Amy Campbell ..... National Anthem**

**Reverend Gary Talley ..... Invocation**

**LaRue County High School Choir ..... Various Musical Selections  
Allen Couch, Director**

**Judge Tommy Turner ..... Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

**Carl Howell, Jr. .... Keynote Address  
President, Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc.  
"September 4, 1916"**

**Charlotte Bingham ..... Richard Burks Lincoln Heritage Award**

**Wilma Terry ..... "American Trilogy"  
Accompanied by Diane Gardner**

**Judge Tommy Turner ..... Closing Announcements**

**LaRue County High School Band ..... Various Musical Selections  
Mark Eck, Director**

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## DEED TRANSFER CEREMONY

Judge Tommy Turner..... Welcome  
Fort Knox Armor Center Color Guard..... Presentation of Colors  
LaRue County High School Band.....National Anthem  
Judge Derek Reed .....Invocation  
Judge Tommy Turner..... Introductions

### Remarks and Recognition

Paul Pritchard, President, National Park Trust  
Senator Wendell Ford  
Congressman Ron Lewis  
Governor Louie B. Nunn  
Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc.  
Senator Dan Kelly  
Representative Dottie J. Sims  
Dr. William Martin, Chairman  
    Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board  
Secretary James Bickford  
    Dept of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection  
LaRue County Fiscal Court Members  
Jill Butler, Lincoln Resource, Conservation, and Development Area  
Vic McCauley, Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors  
Ken Apschnikat .....Introduction  
Superintendent, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site  
Ron Switzer, Superintendent, Mammoth Cave National Park  
Jerry Belson .....Introduction of Keynote Speaker  
Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service  
Fran Mainella .....Keynote Address  
Director, United States National Park Service  
Deed Transfer Ceremony  
Judge Tommy Turner..... Closing Comments  
Reverend Alice B. Scott.....Benediction  
Fort Knox Armor Center Color Guard.....Retire Colors

SEC. 510. /  
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## My Childhood Home I See Again

My Childhood Home I see again  
And gladden with the view;  
And still as mem'ries crowd my brain,  
There's sadness in it too.

O memory! Thou midway world  
'Twixt Earth and Paradise,  
Where things decayed, and loved ones lost  
In dreamy shadows rise.

And freed from all that's gross or vile,  
Seem hallowed, pure, and bright,  
Like scenes in some enchanted isle,  
All bathed in liquid light.

As distant mountains please the eye,  
When twilight chases day--  
As bugle tones, that, passing by,  
In distance die away--

Now [many] years have passed away,  
Since here I bid farewell  
To woods, and fields, and scenes of play  
And schoolmates loved so well.

Where many were, how few remain  
Of old familiar things!  
But seeing these to mind again  
The lost and absent brings.

The friends I left that parting day--  
How changed, as time has sped!  
Young childhood grown, strong manhood gray,  
And half of all are dead.

The very spot where grew the bread  
That formed my bones, I see.  
How strange, old field, on thee to tread,  
And feel I'm part of thee!

*Selected verses of poem quoted by Lincoln, 1846*

**PRESERVATION OF LINCOLN'S KENTUCKY HERITAGE, INC.**

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PRESIDENT**

**KAYE BONDURANT  
VICE PRESIDENT**

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IRIS LARUE  
GOV. LOUIE B. NUNN  
RON SANDERS  
TOMMY TURNER  
WILLIAM TWYMAN**

**LARUE COUNTY FISCAL COURT**

*COUNTY JUDGE- EXECUTIVE:*  
**TOMMY TURNER**

*MAGISTRATES:*  
**GORDON CONNOR  
PAT EASTRIDGE  
PEGGY B. HAWKINS  
SCOTTY LEE**

*Photography and layout of program by W. L. McCoy  
Cover and design of program by Carl Howell Jr.*

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*SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:*

**LINCOLN RESOURCE, CONSERVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.**

## **MANAGEMENT OF KNOB CREEK FARM BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is managed by the National Park Service and now consists of two units historically known as Abraham Lincoln Birthplace at Sinking Spring Farm and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek Farm.

The Boyhood Home has a similar purpose as Lincoln Birthplace, which is to commemorate the early life of Abraham Lincoln and to interpret the relationship of his background and pioneer environment to his service for his country as President. Of primary focus will be the influence that living at the Knob Creek Farm for nearly five years had on his character, integrity, and principles. While limited facilities will be available, National Park Service personnel will emphasize the importance of Lincoln's formative years through exterior exhibits and a variety of methods including electronic and written media as well as on-site presentations and informal contacts by Park Rangers.

Since it is now a part of the National Park System, a General Management Plan is required to direct the overall preservation and development of the area and the ways in which park staff will respond to immediate and future challenges. This plan will determine the management of cultural and natural resources and the opportunities it will offer visitors. In consultation with interested citizens, organizations, and governmental agencies, the National Park Service will articulate a shared vision for its future, which will guide resource protection and visitor-use decisions for 15-20 years.

A three-to-five-year planning process will begin once sufficient information is obtained through methodically conducted studies about historical, natural, archaeological, and ethnographic resources. In the interim, the park staff will focus on preserving structures, gathering information, and explaining Lincoln's life at the Knob Creek Farm.

### AGELESS LINCOLN QUOTES

I do the very best I know how--the very best I can--and I mean to keep doing so 'till the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything.

As I would not be a *slave*, so I would not be a *master*. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.

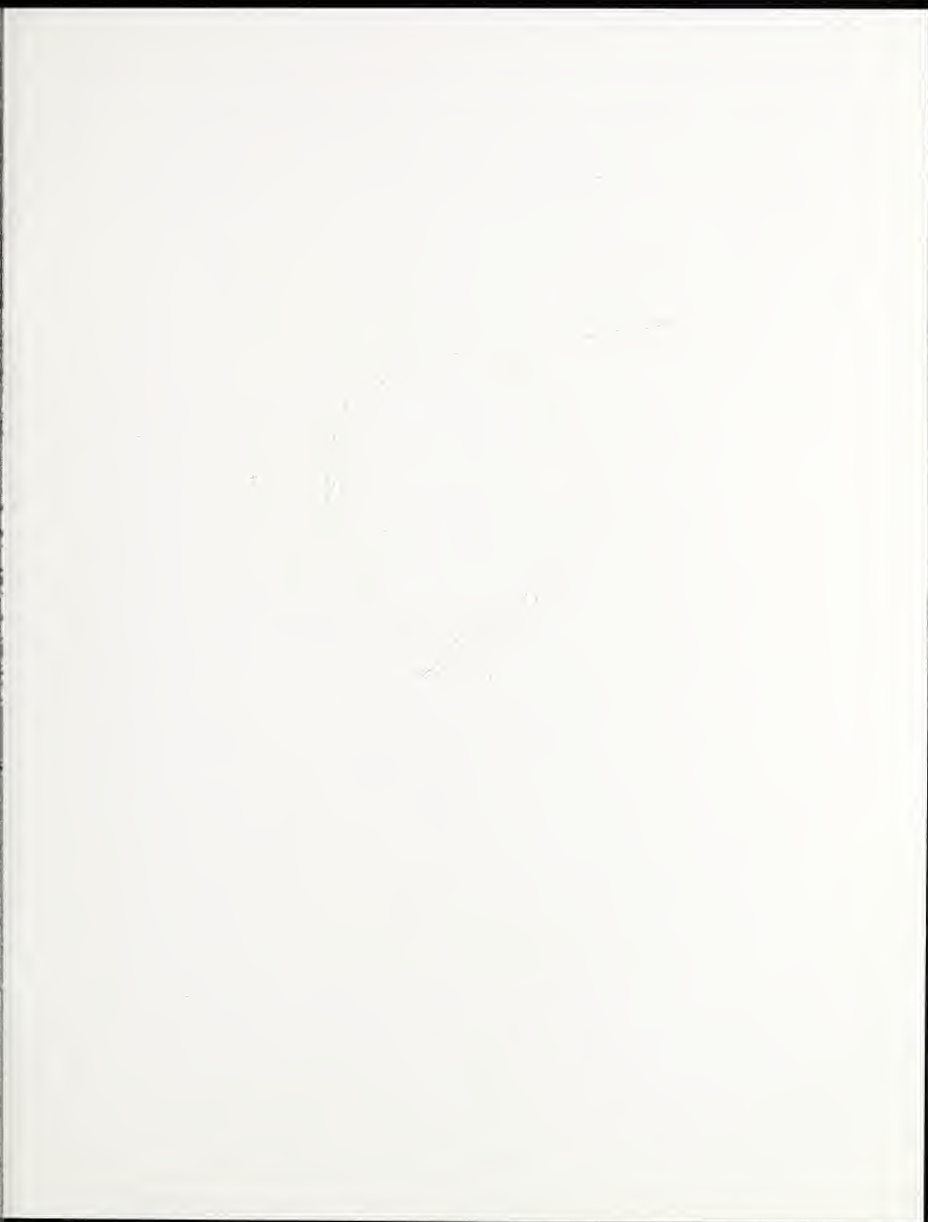
Surely each man has as strong a motive now to preserve our liberties as each had then to establish them.

Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.

May our children and our children's children to a thousand generations continue to enjoy the benefits conferred upon us by a united country, and have cause yet to rejoice under those glorious institutions bequeathed (to) us.

I am sure I bring a heart true to the work. For the ability to perform it, I must trust in that Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people. Without that assistance, I shall surely fail. With it, I cannot fail.

I am concerned to know, not whether God is on my side, but whether I am on God's side...If we do right, God will be with us, and if God is with us we cannot fail.





# Concise History of the Acquisition of Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home

## Lincoln at the Knob Creek Place:

- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site commemorates the birth and early life of Abraham Lincoln and interprets the relationship of his background and pioneer environment to his service for his country as President.
- The Park consists of two units historically known as Abraham Lincoln Birthplace at Sinking Spring farm and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek farm.
- Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in a one-room log cabin at the Sinking Spring farm three miles south of Hodgen's Mill, presently Hodgenville, Kentucky.
- The Lincolns lived and farmed there two and one-half years before moving ten miles away to a farm on Knob Creek northeast of Hodgen's Mill because of difficulty with the title to the Sinking Spring farm.
- Abraham Lincoln lived at the Knob Creek farm from approximately age two to age seven with his father Thomas, his birth mother Nancy Hanks Lincoln, older sister Sarah, and younger brother Thomas, Jr.
- His younger brother Thomas was born here. He died of unknown causes and was buried near Knob Creek in the Redmon Cemetery on a hill nearby.
- Thomas Lincoln's farm was situated along the road that connected Louisville and Nashville, one of the earliest roads running through the region. This location afforded young Abraham Lincoln a "window to the world".
- Because of the Lincoln home location at Knob Creek young Abraham Lincoln likely saw slaves in chains being driven to a distant slave market on the toll road in front of his home on or near what is now 31E.
- One of Lincoln's childhood friends, Austin Gollaher, reportedly rescued Abraham Lincoln when he fell in Knob Creek. President Lincoln remembered his old friend and inquired about him during an interview.



- Knob Creek farm is the only location in Kentucky Abraham Lincoln actually remembered. When asked about his Kentucky years, Lincoln was able to recall in 1860 - "The place on Knob Creek...I remember very well; but I was not born there. My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."
- Lincoln recalled planting pumpkin seed in the fertile bottomland of Knob Creek only to see them washed from the ground by a flash flood.
- Sarah and Abraham walked two miles to the one room log "blab school" schoolhouse where they acquired the rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic taught by Mr. Zachariah Riney and Mr. Caleb Hazel.
- The County Sheriff served legal papers that evicted them and nine other neighboring families from this land because of a flaw in the land title; an all too common occurrence for many of Kentucky's early pioneers.
- Lincoln's Knob Creek experience was during his most formative years as a child. If one accepts the most widely held current view about early childhood development and the importance of the first years of life in shaping the morals, character and attitudes that one carries throughout life, then this site may arguably be the most significant of the locations associated with Lincoln's life. For it was here that these attributes of the future President were formed as well as a wide diversity of ideals that began to shape a young, curious, and ambitious mind.
- Even the land offered the growing boy a diversity of plants, wildlife and topography to stimulate his senses. Truly this relatively unspoiled place is the land that molded the man that became the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. It could be considered "The Land That Molded the Man".
- The Lincolns moved to Indiana in the fall of 1816 from the Knob Creek farm when Abraham was over 7 years old.



## Abraham Lincoln Birthplace and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home:

- Congress established Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in 1916 after the Lincoln Farm Association donated the land and buildings for the park.
- The Site was designated as the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Park and managed by the War Department. Upon entering the National Park Service in 1933 the name was changed to Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. In 1959 the name was changed to its current title of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.
- There are six National Park Service units dedicated to telling the story of Abraham Lincoln - Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, KY; Ford's Theatre National Historic Site (and House Where Lincoln Died), Washington, D.C.; Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, IN; Lincoln Home National Historic Site, IL; Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.; and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, SD.
- Similar to the 1916 acquisition of the Birthplace, on November 6, 2001, the LaRue County Fiscal Court donated "Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Home" to the NPS after over two years of fundraising by the Fiscal Court with assistance from Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc.
- Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home achieved National Park status when it was included within the boundaries of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site on November 6, 2001.
- Early efforts to preserve Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Home at Knob Creek Farm were made by Hattie and Chester Howard when they purchased the Knob Creek farm in 1931.
- The Lincoln cabin home had been razed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Logs from the extant Gollaher family cabin nearby were used by the Howards to construct a representation of the Lincoln cabin at Knob Creek.
- The Howards placed the reconstructed cabin on what was believed to have been the site of the original Lincoln cabin home.

- They also built a large log tavern and restaurant.
- The buildings were completed and opened for business in September 1933, serving as a memorial to Lincoln as well as to take advantage of the growing tourism trade in the area.
- The 3.3-acre Lincoln Boyhood Home complex was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 as an historic district. The historic district was determined significant for its commemoration of the life and heritage of Abraham Lincoln and its association with tourism.
- The property stayed under Howard family ownership for over 70 years until sold to LaRue Fiscal Court in April 2001.
- To their credit, the Howards maintained this beautiful valley and surrounding woodland in striking resemblance to its appearance when the Lincoln family resided there.

## Acquisition of Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek:

- The National Park Trust's Presidential Sites Initiative in the early 1990s under the leadership of Charlie Estes began the public acquisition process by first negotiating a selling price with the owners.
- The owners lead by owners/operators Judy Osbourne and Lois Wimsett openly expressed their desire that the property be protected in perpetuity.
- National Park Service managers began discussions with the National Park Trust about possible strategies for bringing Knob Creek under Federal protection.
- The public ownership initiative began on February 12, 1997, (the 188<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birth) when former U.S. Senator Wendell Ford of Kentucky introduced legislation in the United States Senate to expand the boundaries of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site to include the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek.

- Congressman Ron Lewis, Governor Paul Patton, State Senator Dan Kelly, and State Representative Dottie Sims were supportive of the project, as were many local civic and governmental groups in LaRue County through letters and resolutions to Kentucky state and federal congressional staff.
- The acquisition of this property would not only preserve an important piece of history associated with America's most beloved president, but would be of economic benefit to the local area and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- Park planning documents for the past three decades identified Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek as a significant historic resource that is essential to a more thorough understanding of Lincoln's formative years.
- Federal legislation was originally introduced in the Senate on February 12, 1997 as S. 312. The Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on S. 312 on May 12, 1997, at which the Administration asked that consideration of a bill be deferred while the National Park Service completed its reports into ownership of the Knob Creek Farm and an architectural evaluation of the site.
- Before supporting legislation to add the property to the National Park System, the National Park Service wanted to ascertain that the property was actually the historic farm of Lincoln's childhood. It also wanted to conduct an intense archeological survey of the area to locate the remains of the original buildings.
- Kent Masterson Brown's study *"Report on the Title of Thomas Lincoln to, and the History of, the Lincoln Boyhood Home Along Knob Creek in LaRue County, Kentucky"* concluded that the approximately 200 acre tract, known as the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home, did in fact contain the site of Thomas Lincoln's Knob Creek farm. This study determined that the owners had good and lawful title, and that the tract was traceable all the way back to George Lindsey, Thomas Lincoln's landlord.
- While not the original Lincoln family cabin, Dr. Karen E. Hudson's 1997 *"Architectural Evaluation, Lincoln Boyhood Home Knob Creek Farm, LaRue County, Kentucky"* provided architectural and historical information about the single-pen cabin built by the Howards which represented the Lincoln home at the Knob Creek farm. It did not determine the location of the original cabin through archeological investigations as

planned. With these reports in hand the National Park Service supported the Federal legislation that was being proposed.

- The Assistant Secretary for Fish, and Wildlife and Parks transmitted the results of these reports on January 29, 1998, however, the bill was not reported by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. In the House, the section was introduced as H.R. 3883 on May 14, 1998. The Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a hearing on June 18, 1998, on H.R. 3883, and the subcommittee reported the bill on August 6, 1998. H.R. 3910 was introduced on May 20, 1998 as the Automobile National Heritage Area Act. The language regarding the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site was incorporated into H.R. 3910 in the final days of the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress. H.R. 3910 passed the House on October 10, 1998, and subsequently passed the Senate on October 14, 1998.
- On November 6, 1998, President Bill Clinton approved H.R. 3910, the Automobile National Heritage Area Act of 1998, a multi-titled bill that included a section on Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, as Public Law 105-355.
- This Public Law authorized the expansion of the park boundary to include the 228-acre privately owned property that comprised Lincoln's father's land at Knob Creek. It specifically authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the area "by donation only." [See complete legislative language at the end of this document]
- With this legislative authorization in place the park staff acted by helping to organize a park friends group that could continue the acquisition process begun by the National Park Trust.
- In February 1999, early efforts to pique local interest in the acquisition after the legislation was passed was initiated by Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site Superintendent Kenneth E. Apschnikat and Chief of Operations Gary V. Talley.
- Apschnikat and Talley met with former Kentucky Governor Louie B. Nunn in early February to ascertain his interest in hosting a meeting of local community leaders. The purpose of this meeting was to organize a group to acquire the Lincoln Boyhood Home property and then donate it to the National Park Service.

- In March 1999, the Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc. (doing business as "Lincoln's Boyhood Friends") was formed at a dinner meeting sponsored by Louie B. Nunn.
- This private, non-profit membership organization's purpose was to immediately raise the one million dollars to purchase the 228-acre Knob Creek Farm, and to donate the property to the National Park Service as called for in the legislation.
- Officers selected by the group were Carl Howell, President; Kaye Bondurant, Vice President; and Opal Dail, Secretary/Treasurer.
- The group's Board of Directors consisted of: Lincoln National Bank Chairman A. G. Back, Jr., former Kentucky representative Kaye Bondurant, former Kentucky Utilities executive Opal Dail, Hodgenville Mayor Darrell Florence, Hodgenville businessman Erbie Garrett, attorney Carl Howell, Peoples State Bank President Bill Jordan, former ABLI Superintendent Carolyn Link Karraker, Lincoln Museum Director Iris LaRue, former KY Governor Louie B. Nunn, Bank of Magnolia President Ron Sanders, LaRue County Judge Tommy Turner, and LaRue County Schools Superintendent Bill Twyman.
- Park Superintendent Ken Apschnikat and park Chief of Operations Gary Talley served as National Park Service representatives for the group.
- National Park Foundation's Brigid Holman spoke to the group at their organizational meeting and provided advice and Jay Vestal of the Foundation helped seek donors during fundraising.
- A National Park Trust donation of \$10,000, held the option between the Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc. and the Howard family in February 2000. A 14-month deadline was established to raise the \$1 million agreed upon asking price.
- Over the 14-month period from February 2000 and April 2001, many actions supported the purchase and eventual acquisition.
- A May 2000 edition of Kentucky Educational Television's "Kentucky Life" with Dave Shuffett initiated by park staff featured the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home and the fundraising efforts of the group.

- In November 2000, Southeast Regional Office Chief Curator Allen Bohnert and Staff Curator Sara L. Van Beck visited the Boyhood Home to review and make recommendations regarding the acquisition of potential museum collections from the owners.
- After an on-site review by Keith Langdon and Janet Rock, biologists from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, they wrote "With fifteen (15) years experience in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, world renown for its temperate plant diversity, we have never encountered a slope with as much plant diversity and abundance."
- Upon the request of the LaRue County Fiscal Court (the financial arm of the county governing body) and with major support from State Senator Dan Kelly and other legislators, the Kentucky General Assembly recommended and Governor Paul Patton approved an appropriation of \$500,000 to the LaRue County Fiscal Court in the 2000-2002 Commonwealth of Kentucky budget toward the purchase. This was a tremendous boost to fundraising efforts.
- The LaRue Fiscal Court applied for a Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund grant. This grant required a Resources Management Plan when it was submitted. Jill Butler, Area Coordinator for Lincoln Resource Conservation and Development Area, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and LaRue County officials as well as Park staff drafted the plan. It will be rewritten to reflect National Park Service management of the area as required by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board by March 2004.
- Lead by LaRue County Judge Tommy Turner and supported by members of the LaRue County Fiscal Court, a grant of \$477,000 from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund was approved in early April 2001. This grant was only to be used to purchase portions of the land other than the 3.3 acres of historic land since their primary is land conservation. Their grant pushed fundraising significantly closer to the goal.
- David Miller accomplished the appraisal of the property for LaRue County Fiscal Court in order for them to receive the grant.
- Vic McCauley and the Falls of the Ohio Chapter of the Association of Professional Surveyors completed the boundary survey in April needed for the grant from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. The boundary survey



determined there were 19 properties adjoining the Boyhood Home.

- The Kentucky General Assembly and the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund provided the funds necessary for the acquisition it was necessary for the LaRue County Fiscal Court to purchase the property.
- After 14 months of intensive and creative fundraising efforts and numerous administrative details, funds raised from the General Assembly and the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund were combined with private funds raised by the Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc. and others to complete the purchase by the April 2001 deadline. Due to administrative complexities an extension of the option was necessary to secure the purchase.
- On April 28, 2001, the LaRue County Fiscal Court purchased the property from the Howard family under the option.
- The LaRue County Fiscal Court in partnership with the Lincoln Museum, Inc. Board and their staff and former staff members of the Boyhood Home operated Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home during the 2001 visitor season.
- In June 2001, three members of the State Historic Preservation Office (Tom Fugate, Charles Hockensmith, and Bill Macintire) toured the Boyhood Home facilities to discuss historic, archeological, compliance issues, and future projects potentially affecting cultural resources with Park staff.
- During the week of August 20-24, 2001, WESTON, Inc. conducted a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the two tracts of land at the Boyhood Home. This was required prior to NPS acceptance of the property as a donation from the LaRue County Fiscal Court. A limited Phase II field investigation was also conducted in regard to the reported possible existence of two abandoned oil wells and an abandoned Underground Storage Tank (UST). The UST was located in front of the Tavern, asbestos and lead-based paint were discovered in the Tavern building, an improperly abandoned oil well was located west of 31E, a second oil well location was indicated east of 31E, and possible contamination of soil and water from farm-type pesticides and herbicides is possible. Because of minimal environmental concerns, further investigation was not recommended. A Phase III Remedial Action/Closure was recommended to properly remove the UST and associated contaminated soil; to address asbestos and lead-based paint found; to address oil contamination around the former oil well

locations; and to plug and abandon the one oil well known to exist. These will be accomplished as funding is available from various sources. [See the WESTON study for details and recommendations for mitigation]

- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Park and the LaRue County Fiscal Court was developed in August 2001 to facilitate the smooth transition of ownership and to allow the National Park Service to expend funds at the Boyhood Home while it was still under LaRue County ownership prior to its transfer to the National Park Service.
- Eastern National funds were used in the summer of 2001 to install an intrusion and smoke detection system in the Tavern building and the boyhood cabin for resource protection.
- The Howard family (Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood, Inc.) donated the archival materials within the Boyhood Home Tavern building to the National Park Service unconditionally in October 2001. Photographs, newspaper articles, letters, and similar archival materials will be useful in preparing studies and plans.
- In October 2001 the National Park Service and the Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Home, Inc. entered into a renewable loan of the hundreds of artifacts displayed in the Tavern building and the Cabin. These artifacts are stored in the Tavern building until it is determined if, and if so, how they would be used as part of interpretive exhibits in the building(s).
- The property was officially transferred to the National Park Service on November 6, 2001, exactly three years from the date of the legislation authorizing its acquisition. This transfer was in conformance with the provision in the legislation that required the property be donated to the National Park Service. Until that date it had been the only Lincoln residential site not in national or state ownership.
- The delay in transfer from April to November allowed time for the National Park Service to prepare for operating the property and to resolve infrastructure, resources management, and operational issues prior to Federal ownership.
- A Deed of Conservation Easement was conveyed to the National Park Service from the LaRue County Fiscal Court when it was donated. This was a requirement from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board under Kentucky statute when grant funds were donated to the LaRue County Fiscal Court for the purchase. This easement ensures the perpetual use of the land



as dedicated for public use, outdoor recreation and education consistent with Kentucky statute.

- A 50-ft. right-of-way across the creek to the east of 31E was conveyed with the property in order for the Howard family to have access to their property east of the Boyhood Home property.

Partnerships Involved with the Acquisition and Preparation for Acceptance of the Property by the National Park Service on November 6, 2001:

### Financial Contributors

- Dr. William H. Martin, Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund
- Paul Pritchard, National Park Trust
- LaRue County Fiscal Court
- Vic McCauley, Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors, Falls of Ohio Chapter (\$3,150 cash and donated boundary survey)
- Hodgenville Woman's Club
- Friends of Carolyn Link Karraker Memorial Fund
- Tom Blakeman, The Lincoln National Bank
- Ron Sanders, Bank of Magnolia
- Bill Jordan, Peoples State Bank
- James Fugitte, Fort Knox National Company
- William G. Hardy, Peoples Bank of Bullitt County
- Roger Woodfill, Surveyors Historical Society
- Jim Sayre, Association of Lincoln Presenters
- Louis Cohen
- Paul Cottrill
- Opal Dail
- Thelma Ford
- Lois Gray
- Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Howard
- Frank J. Nichols

### Governmental Support

**Federal:**

Kentucky Congressional Delegation

- 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman Ron Lewis
  - U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell
  - U.S. Senator Jim Bunning
- Former KY Governor and U.S. Senator Wendell Ford

#### **State:**

Executive Branch, Commonwealth of Kentucky

- Kentucky Governor Paul Patton
- Kentucky General Assembly
- Kentucky Senator Dan Kelly, 14<sup>th</sup> District
  - Kentucky Representative Dottie Sims, 19<sup>th</sup> District

#### **Local:**

LaRue County Judge Tommy Turner

LaRue County Fiscal Court Members - Gordon Conner, Pat Eastridge, Peggy Hawkins, and Scotty Lee

### **In-Kind Contributors**

#### **Federal:**

Superintendents and staff:

- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site
  - Blue Ridge Parkway
  - Great Smoky Mountains National Park
  - Mammoth Cave National Park
- Bill Sites, U.S. Forest Service

#### **State:**

- State Historic Preservation Officer David Morgan and staff, Kentucky Heritage Council
- Barbara M. Pauley, Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet's Office of Legal Services
- Dave Shuffett, Kentucky Educational Television
- Lincoln Resource Conservation & Development Area Council
- Jill Butler, Lincoln Resource Conservation & Development Area

#### **County:**

- Kathy McDowell, Valerie McGovern and 40 Magnolia Elementary School third and fourth graders
- LaRue County Jailer Mac Trumbo, Tom Slayton and LaRue County Jail inmates

#### **National Organizations:**

- Chesley Moroz, President, Eastern National

- Jay Vestal and Brighid Holman, National Park Foundation

#### **Local Organizations:**

- Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc. - Carl Howell, Jr., President; Kaye Bondurant, Vice President; Opal Dail, Secretary/Treasurer; Board of Directors: A. G. Back, Jr., Darrell Florence, Erbie Garrett, Bill Jordan, Carolyn Link Karraker (deceased), Iris LaRue, Louie B. Nunn, Ron Sanders, Tommy Turner, and Bill Twyman
- Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc. (Howard family)

#### **The Lincoln's Birthday Deed Transfer Ceremony:**

- The February 12, 2002, deed transfer ceremony is the event which will honor and recognize the many individuals and organizations responsible for the acquisition and eventual donation of the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek to the National Park Service.

#### **The Boyhood Home under National Park Service Management:**

- Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home has similar purpose as Lincoln Birthplace i.e., to commemorate the early life of Abraham Lincoln and to interpret the relationship of his background and pioneer environment to his service for his country as President.
- Of primary focus will be the influence of living at the Knob Creek farm for nearly five years had on his character, morals, attitudes, integrity, and principles.
- The National Park Service will emphasize the importance of Lincoln's formative years through exterior exhibits and a variety of methods including electronic and written media as well as on-site presentations and informal contacts by Park Rangers.
- Limited facilities will be available until historic and natural resource studies are completed and long-range planning is accomplished.
- A General Management Plan as called for in the legislation will direct the overall preservation and development of the area and the ways in which park staff will respond to immediate and future challenges.
- The General Management Plan will determine the management of cultural and natural resources and the opportunities it will offer visitors.

- In consultation with interested citizens, organizations and governmental agencies, the National Park Service will articulate a shared vision for its future which will guide resource protection and visitor use decisions for 15-20 years.
- This planning process will begin once sufficient information is obtained through methodically conducted studies about historic, natural, archeological, and ethnographic resources.
- In the interim, the staff of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site will focus on preservation of structures, information gathering, and explaining Lincoln's life at the Knob Creek farm.

## SEC. 510. ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, KENTUCKY

- (a) IN GENERAL. - Upon acquisition of the land known as Knob Creek Farm pursuant to subsection (b), the boundary of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, established by the Act of July 17, 1916 (39 Stat. 385, chapter 247; 16 U.S.C. 211 et seq.), is revised to include such land. Lands acquired pursuant to this section shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the historic site.
- (b) ACQUISITION OF KNOB CREEK FARM. - The Secretary of the Interior may acquire, by donation only, the approximately 228 acres of land known as Knob Creek Farm in Larue County, Kentucky, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Knob Creek Farm Unit, Abraham Lincoln National Historic Site", numbered 338/80,077, and dated October 1998. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.
- (c) STUDY AND REPORT. - The Secretary of the Interior shall study the Knob Creek Farm in Larue County, Kentucky, and not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the Congress containing the results of the study. The purpose of the study shall be to:
  - (1) Identify significant resources associated with the Knob Creek Farm and the early boyhood of Abraham Lincoln.
  - (2) Evaluate the threats to the long-term protection of the Knob Creek Farm's cultural, recreational, and natural resources.
  - (3) Examine the incorporation of the Knob Creek Farm into the operations of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and establish a strategic management plan for implementing such incorporation. In developing the plan, the Secretary shall-
    - (A) determine infrastructure requirements and property improvements needed at Knob Creek Farm to meet National Park Service standards;
    - (B) identify current and potential uses of Knob Creek Farm for recreational, interpretive, and educational opportunities; and
    - (C) project costs and potential revenues associated with acquisition, development, and operation of Knob Creek Farm.
- (d) AUTHORIZATION.-There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (c).







